

III. REMARKS

▪ **Present Application**

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claim 1-17 are as originally filed with the application. New claims 18-22 have been added. Claim 18 has been added specifically to provoke an interference proceeding with U.S. Application Serial No. 10/119,548, filed on April 10, 2002 and published on October 24, 2002 as US 2002/0156272. Support for Claim 18 can be found throughout the specification, for example, at pages 23-26, 28-36 and 40, lines 16-23. New claims 19-22 are directed to subject matter supported by claim 1. No new matter has been introduced with this amendment. Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the pending claims are patentable.

CONCLUDING REMARKS, REQUESTS AND FEE PAYMENTS

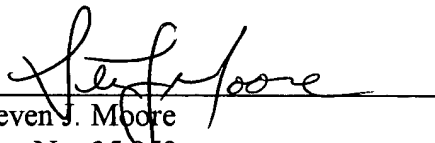
For all of the reasons set forth above, it is firmly believed that pending claims 1 – 22 are allowable. Early notification of allowance is solicited.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees that may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 in connection with the paper transmitted herewith, to Deposit Account No. 033-975.

Respectfully submitted,

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